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Bush: Fewer secret activities by CIA

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WASHINGTON — CIA director George Bush said yesterday that he expected that the CIA would undertake fewer secret activities in the future, but he warned that "we must retain our covert capability."

Bush, appearing on NBC television's "Meet the Press," also said that even though Congress might not have prior knowledge of secret operations, it could still abort bad ones, either by cutting off money or by taking the matter up with the President.

He said he hoped that Congress would approve the recommendations made last week by President Ford to increase supervision of the intelligence community inside the executive branch coupled with more monitoring by Congress.

The interests of the American people can be served and protected through goodwill and communi-

cations with the committees supervising intelligence operations, he said.

Asked whether Ford's proposal to make it a crime to leak secret documents might not have the effect of forcing newsmen to disclose sources as witnesses to a crime, Bush said he did not see any change from the past for reporters.

There is a need to eliminate the sins of the past, he said, but also to be able to operate the intelligence community with secrecy.

He acknowledged that there had been abuses committed by intelligence agencies in the past, but said the changes proposed by Ford will eliminate these.

And he added that while he feels the government should avoid lying publicly, there will be occasions when it cannot be fully responsive to questions because of the nature of intelligence operations.